SASKATOON metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Robots vs. drug cartels

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Quebec's minority government is gearing up for an election fight PAGE 7

BEFORE BAUER, THERE WAS RYAN

JACK'S BACK, AND THIS TIME IT'S CHRIS PINE TAKING ON THE ROLE OF THE TERRORIST-THWARTING TOM CLANCY CHARACTER PAGE 10

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SMILES APLENTY!

Tourism Saskatchewan CEO Pat Fiacco, right, strikes a pose with Italian Star Deli owner Carlo Giambattista in Regina on Tuesday. Both of them are all smiles, but not surprised, at news that Saskatoon and Regina have been ranked among the top five happiest cities in Canada. Story, page 3. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA

From village school to pot production plant

Stimulation for the economy? Sask. town of Milden hopes to turn abandoned building into medicinal grow-op

MORGAN MODJESKI
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A former school property in a tiny Saskatchewan community might get new life from the medicinal-marijuana industry.

Currently for sale for $160,000, the Milden Central School building has been abandoned for eight years, but could soon become home to a grow operation run by Saskatchewan-based Canadian Cannabis Solutions Inc. (CCS).

Lester Wall, mayor of Milden, said on Tuesday that residents he has talked to are behind the idea in hopes that it will improve the local economy.

"It should be quite a boost," Wall said before a community meeting on the issue hours later in the village of about 180 people, a 90-minute drive southwest of Saskatoon.

"We can maybe get our store opened again. It would mean a few more tax dollars into the village.… We've been looking forward to it."

He added that he's not concerned about the marijuana making its way onto the black market.

Fred Glawischnig, CEO and president of CCS, explained that he has yet to secure a federal licence for the production facility that could create 30 full- and part-time jobs within three years.

"Upon communication with the council and the mayor, they were very open to bringing a new business to town," said Glawischnig.

He noted that the 22,000-square-foot facility would have security measures, including security cameras and guards.

"We feel that Milden and Canadian Cannabis will do really well together," Glawischnig added. "It just seems to be the right piece of the puzzle."

Residents at the packed meeting said they hope the facility brings jobs and new families to the former railroad village.

"I think it will bring in jobs, I think it will bring in a police presence, which is needed … and I think it's far enough removed that, unless you're from around here, you're not going to know it's here," said Kindra Lawrence.

"More people in town means more business for us," added Christine Brown, owner of the Milden Hotel. "Maybe we'd be able to extend our hours (and) give people raises, because we'd have business."

Glawischnig said the firm could begin producing within eight months of acquiring a licence.

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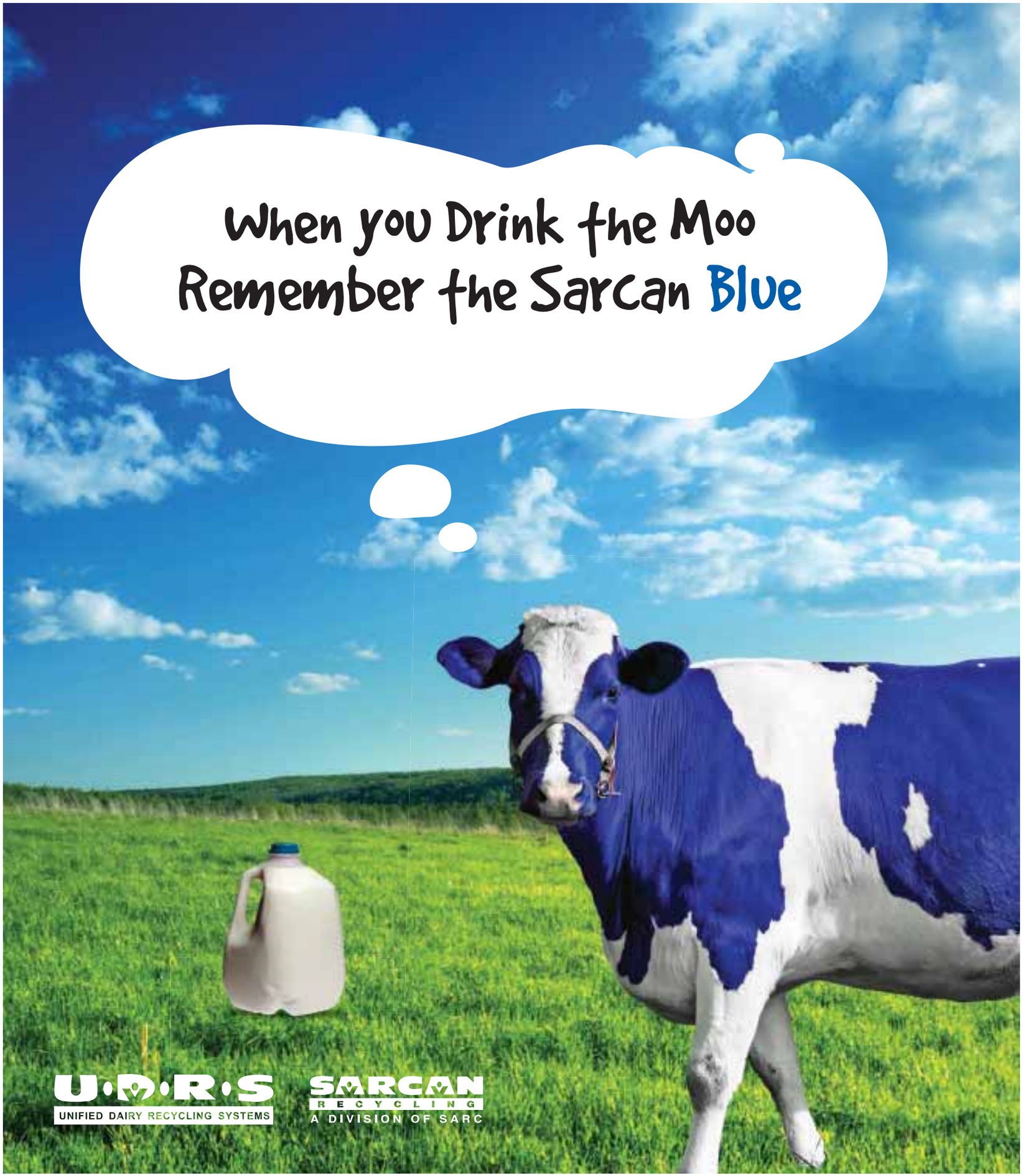
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Private-sector delivery eyed for prison food services

Corrections. Union chief warns of higher costs for taxpayers if contracting is approved

Bob Bymoen, president of the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union, says private contracting of jail food services would hike costs for taxpayers. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

The Saskatchewan government is considering outsourcing its food services at seven provincial prisons in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

The move comes after an internal review determined that direct delivery of food services is not a "core function" of the Ministry of Corrections, Deputy Minister Dale McFee said on Tuesday.

"We're going ... to gather the facts, do a RFP (request for proposals), see what's available and make a good, sound business decision," McFee told Metro.

"We're anticipating the RFP will go out in the next few weeks.... We're anticipating to take it to cabinet in the fall as a decision item."

Any cost savings that can be found in retooling the food-services model, McFee said, could be directed to more crucial areas such as mental-health care, literacy programs and job training.

The president of a union representing prison food-service employees, however, cautions that contracting will lead only to higher costs and staff inadequately trained to deal with "potentially violent" situations.

"Costs escalate when private contractors take over government services, because businesses need to make a profit," said Bob Bymoen of the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union.

A total of 62 positions, including those of 28 full-time employees, could be affected.

Government officials point out that no staff have been laid off, while the ministry continues to work with employees and union representatives.

McFee stressed that the union's concerns will be addressed during the review process.

The facilities eyed for the changes are the Regina Provincial Correctional Centre, Saskatoon Provincial Correctional Centre, Prince Albert Correctional Centre, Pine Grove Correctional Centre, Paul Dojack Youth Centre, Kilburn Hall Youth Centre and Prince Albert Youth Residence.

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO IN REGINA

Lots of smiles to be found in Saskatoon, Regina

Husband and wife Dennis and Rhonda Morgan at the Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink at PotashCorp Plaza on Tuesday. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

Residents of Regina and Saskatoon are all smiles after both cities were ranked among the happiest places in Canada.

Jetpac City Guides, an online travel application, has processed more than 100 million Instagram photos to count the number of people smiling in them, and to keep track of where the pictures have been shared over the course of a year. Each Canadian city has received a smile score, with actual smile sizes — from broad smiles to small grins — rated differently.

Regina has placed second in the country, while Saskatoon is ranked fifth.

"I'm not surprised at all," Tourism Saskatchewan CEO Pat Fiacco said on Tuesday.

"Walk around in Regina or Saskatoon and everyone smiles — even in -51 C weather."

According to Fiacco, both cities boast benefits that put grins on people's faces.

"Regina and Saskatoon have been leading the country in economic growth for quite some time now," he said, "and I think having a low unemployment rate and just having a great quality of life are certainly reasons."

Jetpac CEO Julian Green said small- to medium-sized cities tend to rank higher than larger centres.

"In big cities, everyone is running around stressed," Green said. "In terms of happiness, from the photos, it seems like Saskatchewan is the place to be."

Australian-turned-Saskatonian Dennis Morgan agrees, noting he finds residents very optimistic despite the cold weather.

"I just think it's the people," Morgan said in Saskatoon.

"(They) have a good personality to start with, and are very outgoing."

Fiacco foresees Saskatchewanians having more reasons to smile in the years ahead.

"Our population is also getting more diverse," Fiacco said.

"Those are such great things to be happy about."

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA
WITH FILES FROM JACOB MORGAN

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Stationery. Clement pays back taxpayers for second set of fancy business cards

Among Tony Clement's stack of Christmas bills this year was one to pay taxpayers back for a second set of gold-embossed business cards that broke government rules.

Clement, the Treasury Board president, used his personal credit card last week to reimburse his department $195.98 for cards that were ordered back in 2011, when he first took the cabinet post.

The Jan. 8 payment was in addition to the $434 he reimbursed taxpayers last month for another set of forbidden gold-embossed cards.

Clement has now paid back $630 for improper stationery, which he says was ordered in error by a staff member.

Tony Clement
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Each set of his cards featured the Arms of Canada decorated with gold leaf, a costly stationery option that has been banned across government since 1994.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political finance probe. Firm owned by MP Del Mastro's cousin searched

Two people who contributed to MP Dean Del Mastro's 2008 election campaign told investigators they were reimbursed at a profit by a company owned by the MP's cousin, court documents show.

The donations were part of an alleged scheme to skirt political financing rules by concealing the fact they were made by a corporate donor.

The evidence forms part of an ongoing investigation by the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections into the activities of Deltro Electric Inc. and its president, David Del Mastro.

Former Conservative MP Dean Del Mastro, who now sits as an Independent, is not a subject of the investigation. No charges have been laid in the case, and the allegations have not been tested in court.

Heavily redacted court documents related to a search warrant request were released this week. Investigators, backed by a technical unit of the RCMP, searched the offices of Deltro in Mississauga, Ont., last fall.

In addition to receiving a $50 bonus with the reimbursement, those who allegedly participated in the scheme could also apply for a tax credit. Investigators estimated the credit at $558 per person.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. Congress

Budget bill could effectively ban horse slaughter

Lawsuits that have repeatedly delayed the opening of horse slaughterhouses in New Mexico and Missouri could be moot if the budget bill up for a vote in Congress this week passes.

The bill released Monday would effectively reinstate a federal ban on horse slaughter by cutting funding for inspections at equine facilities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Wide Worries?

U.S. net neutrality rules set aside by appeals court

In a decision that could reshape Americans' access to online content, a federal appeals court Tuesday set aside FCC rules designed to ensure that transmission of all Internet content be treated equally.

The rules have barred broadband providers from prioritizing some types of Internet traffic over others.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This July 8, 2004, photo shows a Mexican federal agent crawling through a hidden tunnel, presumably used to transport drugs from Mexico to the U.S. The job of searching these networks can be dangerous, so the U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war — a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time. DAVID MAUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Mexican drug tunnels and the robots that patrol them

U.S. border security. With cartels turning to subterranean methods to smuggle drugs into the U.S., officials turn to technology to stop them

As U.S. border security has tightened, drug cartels have turned to tunnelling beneath the ground to avoid detection.

Nearly 170 tunnels have been found nationwide since 1990, most along the Arizona and California border with Mexico. The job of searching these networks can be dangerous, so the U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war — a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time.

Tunnel construction ranges from extremely rudimentary to very sophisticated, with lights, supports and ventilation. They can range from a few feet to nearly a kilometre long.

Labourers hired by cartels use hoes and shovels to gouge out soil and load the dirt into buckets that are brought back out of the tunnel's starting point in Mexico, and smugglers have dug dozens of tunnels in Nogales, Ariz., that tie into the city's storm drainage system.

For sophisticated tunnels, cartels hire engineers and miners. Officials estimate that the more sophisticated tunnels cost between $2 million to $3 million to build.

Smuggling groups use tunnels to move drugs, guns and people who want to sneak across the U.S. border, though traffickers are sometimes selective about what they will move through their tunnels.

So-called tunnel robots have been in use by Border Patrol for several years. They can safely navigate through corrugated pipes, tunnels, and drainage systems while an agent controls the device from the surface, seeing what the robot sees on a handheld screen. The robots are used, in part, as a safety measure to keep agents out of harm's way as many tunnels can be poorly built and possibly collapse and lack proper ventilation.

They also can navigate an underground labyrinth in a fraction of the time it would take an agent to explore the tunnel. Some of the newer robots, which weigh about 5.5 kilograms and can navigate through passageways that are only several feet wide, are being deployed this year across southern Arizona and California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence in Mexico

Soldiers' confrontation with civilians turns deadly

The Mexican government moved in to quell violence between vigilantes and a drug cartel in Michoacan state, but the campaign turned deadly early Tuesday in the town of Antunez, with a confrontation between soldiers and civilians who witnesses say were unarmed.

There were varying reports of casualties, but journalists saw the bodies of two men said to have died in the clash, and spoke to the family of a third man who was reportedly killed in the same incident. No women or children died, contrary to earlier reports.

The government sent more troops and federal police late Monday to retake an area known as the Tierra Caliente after days of violence between the vigilantes and the Knights Templar cartel. Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong urged the vigilantes to put down their arms and return home, saying the government would not tolerate anyone breaking the law.

The confrontation occurred after townspeople were called to meet a convoy of soldiers who they were told were coming to disarm the self-defence group. Witnesses said the group did not carry guns, but as they blocked the convoy, some soldiers fired into the crowd.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Who's my daddy, asks daughter in sperm scandal

University of Utah. Hotline received 17 calls about possible tampering with semen at clinic once operated by faculty members

The suspect is dead, the fertility clinic where he reportedly replaced a customer's sperm with his own no longer operates, and the clinic left no records that might show the extent of the scandal, the University of Utah said Tuesday.

Officials say they may never get to the bottom of a complaint that a convicted felon working at the clinic two decades ago switched his sperm, leaving a now 21-year-old woman asking, "Who am I?"

A 1998 booking photo of Thomas Ray Lippert provided by Salt Lake County Jail. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The mix-up happened in 1991, the clinic shut down the following year and the suspect died in 1999.

The mother of the 21-year-old woman, Pamela Branum, has said she and her husband discovered a genetic mismatch in their daughter and were able to trace her lineage with help from relatives of the now-deceased fertility clinic worker, Thomas Ray Lippert.

Branum said she believes the university hasn't conducted a serious investigation and is trying to conceal the possibility of a wider scandal.

"I thought I was this person (of) my mom and my dad," the family's daughter told CBS affiliate KUTV. "Now, my dad is not my biological father. Who am I?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australians keep their cool in heat wave

People jump into the sea to keep cool at St Kilda Beach on Tuesday in Melbourne, Australia. Temperatures are expected to reach over 40 C in parts of Victoria over the next four days. CRAIG SILLITOE/GETTY IMAGES

Topless fashion shoot draws $1M suit

A fashion photographer is facing a lawsuit for taking pictures of a topless model on the observation deck of the Empire State Building.

The owners of the New York City landmark filed a $1.1 million US lawsuit against Allen Henson for a set of photos he took in August.

According court papers filed Monday, Henson didn't apply for permission and never notified the building about his plans for the photo shoot. Building representatives called it objectionable and inappropriate because the observation deck is a family and tourist attraction.

Henson says the view from atop the building is so breathtaking he didn't think anyone noticed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Nigeria

Activists warn against new anti-gay law

First the police targeted gay men, then tortured them into naming dozens of others who now are being hunted down, human rights activists said Tuesday, warning that such persecution will rise under a new Nigerian law.

The men's alleged crime? Belonging to a gay organization. The punishment? Up to 10 years in jail under the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act, which has elicited international condemnation for criminalizing gay marriage and gay organizations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romania

Man pleads not guilty to genocide

A man charged with genocide for the deaths of political prisoners at a lockup he commanded when Romania was a communist country pleaded innocent on Tuesday. Alexandru Visinescu, 87, is accused of being responsible for the deaths of six inmates at the Ramnicu Sarat prison from 1956 to 1963. Prosecutors said prisoners there were routinely subjected to beatings, hunger, insufficient medical treatment and exposure to the cold. About 500,000 Romanians were held as prisoners in the 1950s as the nation's Communist government sought to crush all dissent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy

Anti-immigrant party under fire

The newspaper of Italy's anti-immigrant Northern League party has come under fire for a new feature listing the daily whereabouts of the country's first black Cabinet minister. Ever since her appointment in April, Cécile Kyenge has faced racist taunts from Northern League politicians and activists. She has earned the League's wrath by promising to change Italy's restrictive immigration and citizenship policies and arguing that immigrants are a resource that Italy needs and not a security threat or burden. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French pres. angry over tabloid story

Overshadowed by scandal. Hollande announces economic measures to encourage hiring Tuesday

Under pressure over a magazine report that he is having a secret affair with an actress, French President Francois Hollande conceded Tuesday he is going through "painful moments" with his companion but otherwise sidestepped specifics on his personal life.

Hollande's partner, journalist Valerie Trierweiler, has been hospitalized since Friday, when Closer published photos it said proved Hollande's liaison. Speaking at a major news conference, Hollande said Trierweiler "is resting" but insisted that the venue in front of hundreds of reporters was "neither the place nor the moment" to discuss the issue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Everyone in his or her personal life can go through ordeals — that's the case with us."

French President Francois Hollande

Pledge

French President Francois Hollande pledged Tuesday to slash 50 billion euros in public spending and abolish 30 billion euros worth of payroll taxes by 2017 as he tries to encourage hiring and clean up public finances.

- Hollande is unpopular for his failure to lower 11 per cent unemployment.

Referendum: Egyptians vote on a new constitution

An Egyptian man flashes the victory sign as he lines up to vote in the country's constitutional referendum in Cairo on Tuesday. Upbeat and resentful of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egyptians voted on a new constitution in a referendum that will pave the way for a likely presidential run by the nation's top general Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi, months after he ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi. KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Sudan. Women, kids drown trying to flee

A boat carrying mostly women and children desperately fleeing heavy violence in South Sudan sank while crossing the Nile River, killing some 200 people, a military official said Tuesday, as fighting between rebels and government forces moved closer to the capital.

Warfare in the world's newest state has displaced more than 400,000 people since mid-December, with the front lines constantly shifting as loyalist troops and renegade forces gain and lose territory in battles often waged along ethnic lines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eastern China. Workers die in shoe factory fire

A fire at a shoe factory in eastern China on Tuesday killed at least 16 people, state media reported.

The blaze broke out at the Dadong factory in the city of Wenling in Zhejiang province, state broadcaster CCTV said. Firefighters put it out about three hours later and rescued more than 20 people, it said. The report didn't say how the fire started. Such factories often contain large amounts of adhesives and other flammable chemicals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Theatre shooting suspect held without bail

Curtis Reeves appears via video conference before Circuit Judge Lynn Tepper in Wesley Chapel, Fla., on Tuesday. BRENDAN FITTERER/THE TAMPA BAY TIMES/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An argument over texting in a Florida movie theatre ended with a retired police captain fatally shooting a man sitting in front of him, authorities said.

On Tuesday, a judge ordered Curtis Reeves, 71, held without bond on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of 43-year-old Chad Oulson on Monday. Reeves had his first court appearance Tuesday afternoon.

"I can't believe people would bring a pistol, a gun, to a movie," said Charles Cummings, who was about to watch the movie Lone Survivor on Monday. "I can't believe they would argue and fight and shoot one another over popcorn. Over a cellphone."

Pasco County Sheriff's officials said the shooting happened when Reeves asked 43-year-old Chad Oulson to stop texting at the theatre.

Reeves and his wife were sitting behind Oulson and his wife. Oulson told Reeves he was texting with his three-year-old daughter, Cummings said.

"It ended almost as quickly as it started," said sheriff's spokesman Doug Tobin. The sheriff's office says an off-duty deputy detained Reeves until police arrived.

Cummings, who had blood on his clothes, told a group of reporters Monday afternoon the show was still in previews when the two couples started arguing. Cummings said the men started raising their voices and popcorn was thrown. Authorities said Reeves took out a gun, Oulson's wife put her hand over her husband and Reeves fired his weapon, striking Nichole Oulson in the hand and her husband in the chest.

Cummings, who said he was a combat Marine in Vietnam, said Oulson fell onto him and his son.

"Blood started coming out of his mouth," said Cummings' son, Alex. "It was just a very bad scene."

Chad Oulson died at a hospital, Tobin said. His wife's injuries were not considered life-threatening. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China

Doctor gets death for selling babies

A Chinese court on Tuesday convicted a doctor of baby trafficking and sentenced her to death with a two-year reprieve, after she admitted that she stole babies from the hospital where she worked and sold them. Zhang Shuxia told parents their newborns had congenital problems and persuaded them to give them up, according to the court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Breaking Bad

Meth dealers mimic TV show

Kevin Abar, assistant special agent in charge of Home Security Investigations in New Mexico, says distributors are selling blue-tinted meth in the Four Corners — mirroring the hit drama Breaking Bad. Abar says tinting meth is a branding technique but noted the blue drug is making people sick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

End of life

Pregnant, brain-dead woman at centre of lawsuit

The husband of a pregnant, brain-dead American on Tuesday sued the hospital keeping her alive, saying doctors are doing so against her and her family's wishes. The lawsuit filed in Texas asks a judge to order John Peter Smith Hospital to remove life support for Marlise Munoz. The hospital says a law prohibits life-saving treatment from being denied to pregnant patients, but experts say a brain-dead patient's case wouldn't be covered. The health of the fetus is unknown. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Zealand

Kim Dotcom plans political Net party

Indicted entrepreneur Kim Dotcom — co-founder of the now-defunct file-sharing site Megaupload — says he's launching a political party in New Zealand on Monday to contest the country's general election this year. "My political party will activate non-voters, the youth, the Internet electorate," he wrote on twitter last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec government settles in for lengthy charter fight

Entrenched. Party is ready to trumpet ban on religious symbols if election is called

Bernard Drainville, Quebec Minister responsible for Democratic Institutions and Active Citizenship, listens during a legislature committee studying the proposed charter on Tuesday in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Quebec government insists it won't back down on its values charter and is ready to make it an election issue if need be.

Yet the minister responsible for the proposed legislation said Tuesday that such a scenario would clearly be the fault of the two main opposition parties.

Bernard Drainville said the Liberals and the Coalition for Quebec's Future have made it clear they will vote against the provincial budget, which is expected in a few months.

That would topple the Parti Quebecois minority government and trigger a provincewide vote, which would likely take place before the charter is voted on.

"That would effectively mean the CAQ (the Coalition) and the Liberals would be making the charter an election issue," Drainville told reporters as public hearings began in Quebec City on the divisive Bill 60.

The bill would forbid public employees from wearing visible religious symbols including hijabs, turbans, kippas and large crucifixes.

Both Drainville and Premier Pauline Marois reiterated Tuesday the government will not be swayed.

Banning "overt religious signs is something we're sticking to," Marois said in Montreal. "It's a basic part of the project."

Drainville said the religious neutrality of the state must be "visible, apparent and concrete."

While Drainville never uses the word "firing," the consequences for employees who flout the law are clear.

"If a government worker considers the wearing of religious signs during work hours to be more important than the religious neutrality of the state and the respect for law, it will be their choice," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Threatened no longer

There are now nesting bald eagles along the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers in Pittsburgh for the first time in more than 200 years, according to Bob Mulvihill of the National Aviary. Confirmation of 235 additional nesting sites in Pennsylvania contributed to the state Game Commission's decision in September to remove bald eagles from "threatened" status. They remain protected by Pennsylvania state and federal laws. GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flooding cost a ton, but is deficit really a disaster?

Residents wade through floodwaters in Calgary on June 24, 2013. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Despite the death-to-the-deficit mantra being chanted by Conservative devotees, some economists say there is no real pressing need to balance the books by 2015 — just in time for the next election.

Tory junior finance minister Kevin Sorenson invoked the "dire consequences" that befell bankrupt Detroit and struggling Greece in a speech Tuesday to the Economic Club of Canada.

"Balancing our books, as all business leaders know, gives us greater flexibility to respond to the unforeseen," Sorenson said.

Indeed, even the best-laid fiscal plans can go astray.

Canada's budget watchdog noted Tuesday that the unexpected cost of dealing with recent natural disasters helped push up federal spending in the first six months of the current fiscal year than the same period a year ago.

Major floods and rain storms in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba between 2010 and 2013 have created an estimated $4.1-billion liability that may rise further if Environment Canada's predictions of increased precipitation rates prove correct, the parliamentary budget office said in its latest report.

"As a former farmer, let me tell you, there's no telling what the next season has in store," Sorenson said in his speech. "We face an uncertain and fragile global economy."

But according to senior economist David MacDonald of the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, "unbelievably" low interest rates and a healthy appetite for government bonds means the cost of servicing the debt is at an all-time low.

"You can flow 20-year bonds at the cost of inflation," he said. "It's incredible."

There's still a lot of slack in the economy, MacDonald said. If anyone's in a position to keep borrowing to drive growth, it's Ottawa.

"There is in fact no pressing need at all to balance the budget," said MacDonald. "This is not an economic problem; it's a political problem." THE CANADIAN PRESS

The usual suspects: Wireless auction no serious threat to Big 3

Experts. Bidding for the 700 megahertz waves shouldn't topple Bell, Rogers and Telus

Bidding for a coveted piece of Canada's wireless market started Tuesday.

Experts say the 700 megahertz waves up for auction are particularly valuable because they allow cellphone signals to travel longer distances and penetrate buildings and tunnels where calls are often dropped.

The signal also requires fewer cellphone towers to provide coverage in rural areas.

Ten players are in the game, including Canada's big three telecom companies: Bell, Rogers and Telus.

Among regional bidders are Quebecor's Vidéotron in Quebec, MTS Inc. in Manitoba, Saskatchewan Telecommunications and Bragg Communications, which operates EastLink in Atlantic Canada. But Wind Mobile's parent, Globalive Communications, pulled out Monday due to a lack of funds.

It's expected to be weeks before Industry Canada discloses who won licences and how much they paid for them.

The previous auction in 2008 for different spectrum raised $4.3 billion and ushered in a host of new players. But experts say lack of new competition means this auction won't likely raise as much money as expected, even though it's a more valuable piece of spectrum.

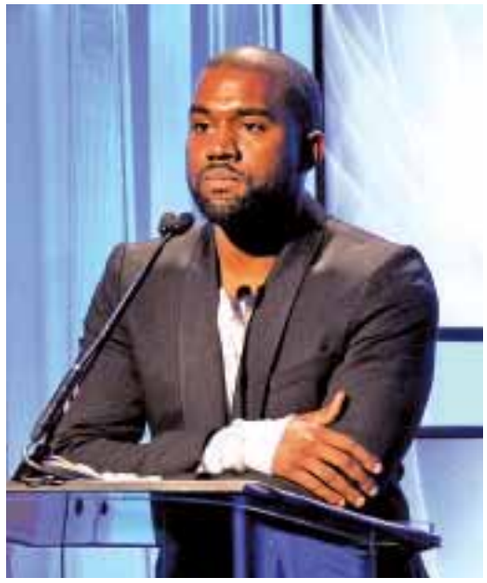
Hopes for foreign competitors to shake up the industry were dashed last fall when U.S. giant Verizon dropped the idea of expanding into Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fourth player?

The feds say they want a fourth national player in every region of the country to give consumers more choice and to help lower fees.

- A Scotiabank analyst said Tuesday regional telecom operator Quebecor may be interested in acquiring Mobilicity, a small and financially struggling wireless company that has been trying to find a buyer. Analyst Jeff Fan said Quebecor could potentially become a "solution to the government's fourth operator objective in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario."



Yo, Coinye, I'm not gonna let you finish

Hip hop star Kanye West filed a lawsuit Tuesday in federal court to stop production of "Coinye West" bitcoins, which he says unjustly cash in on his fame. West's lawsuit seeks to stop companies and individuals that have not yet been identified from exchanging the digital currency, and also seeks unspecified damages for hurting West's reputation. As of Tuesday, the Coinye website stated, "Coinye is dead. You win, Kanye." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Multiple subscriptions

We are still *very* attached to TV

The rumours of rampant cord-cutting have been exaggerated.

More than 2.5 million Canadian households will have multiple TV subscriptions, paying for TV through a traditional provider and at least one other online TV service, according to a Deloitte study released Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Global vehicle market

GM speeds ahead, but likely can't lap Toyota in sales

General Motors sold 9.71 million cars and trucks last year, probably not enough to beat out Toyota for the global sales crown, but about 200,000 better than Volkswagen.

Toyota, the sales champion in 2012, will report its sales next week. It only needs to show a little growth to beat GM again.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nova Scotia

Brewing up rules for making beer, wine in stores

Consultations to develop regulations that would allow people in Nova Scotia to make wine or beer in stores will start this week.

The provincial government says it will work with the beer brewing and winemaking industry to develop regulations and standards that are expected to be introduced in the next legislative session.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tax Evasion Bear: Man behind Beanie Babies did the crime, but no hard time

The billionaire businessman behind Beanie Babies was sentenced Tuesday to two years of probation, but no prison time, for not paying taxes on millions of dollars stashed in Swiss bank accounts, with the judge praising the toy magnate for his charity work.

H. Ty Warner, 69, issued a sombre but composed apology before being sentenced in Chicago federal court, saying he felt "shame and embarrassment." He pleaded guilty last year to a single count of tax evasion for not paying taxes on $25 million US in income he had hidden.

Slap on the wrist?

"(Without prison time), tax evasion becomes little more than a bad investment."

Prosecutor Michelle Petersen told the judge that Warner's charity work — however laudable — should not keep him out of prison.

Warren could have been sentenced to up to five years in prison, and a prosecutor asked U.S. District Judge Charles Kocoras on Tuesday to impose at least a year behind bars.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

H. Ty Warner, the billionaire who created Beanie Babies, gets into a car in Chicago on Tuesday after being sentenced. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happily ever after? Our love affair with charging it to credit could end badly

Canada's biggest banks say consumers are reaching the limit on how much they can afford to borrow, and that's likely to slow loan growth this year.

Royal Bank chief executive Gord Nixon said Tuesday he expects Canadian households will begin to show more restraint.

"In terms of pure consumer lending (growth), we'll probably be operating at a much lower rate than we have been over the last few years," he told a bank industry conference.

"There's no question that the consumer has been leveraged up."

Canadians have taken advantage of low interest rates for years by borrowing record amounts that could leave them vulnerable.

Policy-makers have expressed concern that a sudden rise in interest rates would leave many consumers unable to meet their payments, potentially causing a fallout that ripples through the housing market and consumer spending.

Statistics Canada reported household debt rose to an all-time high of 163.7 per cent during the third-quarter of 2013. The increase means Canadians owe nearly $1.64 for every $1 in disposable income they earn in a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 91.34¢ (-0.86¢)

TSX 13,692.38 (+ 10.90)

OIL $92.59 US (+ $0.79)

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Natural gas: $4.36 US (+$0.05)
Dow Jones: 16,373.86 (+ 115.92)

MUST LOVE DOGS, DRINKS, GOD

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

The Mona Lisa?

Fuhgeddaboudit! The ideal woman, according to the dating site Plenty of Fish, is: "A 25-year-old Catholic woman who owns a dog, describes herself as thin, and drinks alcohol three times a week."

This paragon of femininity is likely to receive more messages than any other woman.

I don't know about you, but she sounds a little high-maintenance to me. A potential three hangovers a week when she stays in bed and you have to walk the stupid dog ... and then you're expected to go to church on Sunday while she tends to her guilty conscience.

Oh, and she's smarter than you are, as somehow she already has a graduate degree at 25.

Unlike previous ideals such as Mona and Helen of Troy, this vision of female perfection is not the obsession of some mooning poet with bad facial hair, but grounded in science: a just-released survey of 81,000 online anglers at Plenty of Fish.

So, as you're (literally) making up your online profile, here are some other science-based tips:

— Dogs are good, but only in the abstract. Women who post photos of themselves with the actual Rottweiler don't get as many messages.

— Don't state your age as 33, because 33-year-olds get the lowest number of messages. Further research (random numerology websites) shows 33 people described as: "Healers, compassionate, blessings, teacher of teachers, martyr, inspiration, honesty, discipline, bravery, courage." No wonder. Who can live up to that?

— Finally, whatever you do, drink. Women who say they abstain from alcohol get 24 per cent fewer messages.

I guess this profile says more about the guys doing the fishing than the female fish. The ideal woman sounds like the proverbial Good Sport. I'm surprised she doesn't come with a plaid shirt and a pickup truck.

But it doesn't matter what guys want, does it?

The ideal guy, as chosen by female fishers of men, earns between $100,000 and $150,000 a year. It helps to have a doctorate, MD or law degree. And, of course, you want to have children, even if you're too busy earning $150k to remember their names.

You apparently don't have to worry about your age, but you should also have dark hair, so I presume that means you should still have hair. Also, the longer your, er, bio, the more likely you are to get a reply. Women like a man who can talk at length about himself. Right.

After reading this survey, I am no longer surprised about that other statistic: More than half of marriages end up in divorce.

Good thing there are still plenty of fish in the sea, even if they are 33.

ZOOM

Hella wicked sight made of sound

COURTESY DLR

Helicopter noise seen for first time

Scientists have revealed why helicopters produce the noise they do – by showing for the first time the sound waves from their rotor blades.

Researchers from the German Aerospace Center in Göttingen developed a way of taking pictures of vortices that form at the blades' tips. METRO

Making vortices

As the rotor blades punch through the atmosphere, they create a vortex at their tips, caused by a difference in pressure around the blade (reduced pressure above the blade and an area of increased pressure below it).

As the rotors spin and hit the vortices of their adjacent blades, they produce the helicopter's distinctive "carpet beater" noise. METRO

Copter rocks it

In this image, blade-tip vortices are visible as dark lines during a complete rotation of the main rotor.

The engine exhaust flows are perceptible as a noisy area trailing the helicopter. The tail rotor's vortex system is also visible (black, circular lines on the tail rotor). The helicopter is pictured performing a rocking manoeuvre. METRO

Experts track bent light to spot sound

To photograph the vortices, scientists at DLR used a light-tracking technique called the Background Oriented Schlieren Method.

Light rays are refracted as they travel through sections of atmosphere with varying densities. This phenomenon is seen against a suitable background — in this case, a limestone quarry. METRO

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

With Bitcoin becoming increasingly mainstream, hipster speculators and economic-rollercoaster fans are looking elsewhere for their crypto-currency fix. Bitcoin's software is actually open source, meaning anyone can copy it and make their own version. Here are some people who did.

COURTESY DOGECOIN

Litecoin:

Often described as "the silver to Bitcoin's gold," Litecoin was one of the first Bitcoin alternatives on the market. It's also seen a sharp rise in value, currently trading at about $23 per coin. Unlike its predecessor — which required massive computing power to mine effectively — it's easier to mine with the average PC.

Dogecoin:

If you prefer your digital dollars in meme form, then Dogecoin is for you. Named after the smiling Shiba Inu dog who became the most popular Internet meme of 2013, the currency started as a joke but gained value as more users jumped on the bandwagon. Wow.

Letters

RE: Health Authority to Probe Deaths of 2 Patients Shortly after Hospital Discharge, published online Friday, Jan. 10

I just wanted to comment on the story about the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the two people that died ... it is a horrible thing! But I don't think they should be passing the blame on to the Taxi Cab Board.

Sure, they likely should have a policy in place to make sure people get into their houses ... however, that is not the main problem or fault here!

It is the fact that the hospitals are not getting people well before they send them home, PLUS they are not phoning a relative or caregiver that they are releasing these people. Someone should know that they are going home! Then the problem would not be happening at all.

Rosemarie Menzies, Winnipeg

Who is expecting them?

"Someone should know that they are going home!"

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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SCENE 2

Chris Pine ready for duty as latest Jack Ryan recruit

Man of many faces. As the fourth Jack Ryan, Pine wants to 'stay true' to Tom Clancy's famous character

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In your mind's eye when you picture ex-Marine turned CIA analyst Jack Ryan, who do you see?

Is he a dark-haired, suave six-foot movie star with a hot temper and a racy Twitter account? Or maybe a world-weary fellow with a scar on his chin and a resemblance to Indiana Jones? Or how about the Red Sox fan formerly known as Bennifer?

Created by writer Tom Clancy, Jack Ryan is the lead character in nine novels and the star of five films. This weekend we'll see him uncover a Russian plot to destroy the U.S. economy with a terrorist attack in Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit.

Chris Pine, best known as Captain Kirk in the recently rebooted Star Trek series, is the newest member of the Ryanverse, and hopes to bring something new to the character.

"I can't be Alec Baldwin," he told Empire. "I can't be Harrison Ford. I can only really do my own thing and stay true to the pillars of this character."

Baldwin originated Ryan on screen in the 1990 high-tech thriller The Hunt for Red October.

The movie could have been the beginning of a James Bond-esque franchise for Baldwin, but he left the series after just one outing despite the film being one of the top grossing movies of the year. In a Huffington Post blog he says he was pushed aside for another actor "with much greater strength at the box office."

Baldwin doesn't name names, but Harrison Ford soon signed on, playing Ryan in Patriot Games and Clear and Present Danger.

Author Clancy, who passed away in 2013, was not a fan of the Ford years. He thought the two movies dumbed down his original stories and thought Ford was too old to play the role. "Giving your book to Hollywood is like turning your daughter over to a pimp," he said.

Next up was Ben Affleck, who took over in the 2002 prequel The Sum of All Fears.

"The day I received the offer to play Jack Ryan," said Affleck, "I was filming a Pearl Harbor scene with Alec Baldwin. He was very sweet and said I should do it."

The part's originator has become the go-to guy with actors who sign up to play Ryan. When he was offered the part, Pine was shooting Guardians of the Galaxy with Baldwin. "He urged me to hold onto it," said Pine, "and to attack it."

Chris Pine stars as Jack Ryan in Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit. CONTRIBUTED

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Big Bad Wolves has quite the bite

Bloody great. Violent Israeli thriller adored by Quentin Tarantino is a cinematic heavy hitter

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

Lior Ashkenazi and Menashe Noy star in Big Bad Wolves, which opens Friday in Toronto CONTRIBUTED

Though we haven't the foggiest how many new movies Quentin Tarantino actually watched last year, the maverick director's assessment of Israeli filmmakers Aharon Keshales and Navot Papushado's shattering revenge thriller Big Bad Wolves as "the best film of the year" is hyperbole worth considering. It's really that good.

"We met him in Busan film festival," Keshales told Metro of the event surrounding the screening QT saw.

"Mr. Tarantino came to see the film and at the end, during the Q and A, he raised his hand and said all the beautiful things he said about Big Bad Wolves. He also talked to Navot after the screening and gave us some advice. He did an amazing thing for our film and we feel blessed to have our idol endorsing our film."

Tarantino's thumbs up may have put Big Bad Wolves on the pop culture radar, but its power to shock and provoke is distinctly the work of its creators. Their 2012 sleeper gem Rabies turned heads internationally and Wolves pushes that picture's blackly comic, ultra-violent ferocity into new, troubling and yet amusing directions.

In it, a rogue policeman and a desperate father kidnap and brutalize the mild-manner teacher they suspect is behind a spate of child murders. But that's just the meat and potatoes set-up of this masterful, serpentine shocker, one that treads a fine line between satire and outright horror show.

"When dealing with such a delicate subject, you have to trust your intuition and gut feeling," the director says.

"If you feel you're crossing a line then you're crossing a line. If you think you're doing something in a very bad taste then you're doing it. Another recommendation is to give the script to the more delicate souls in your family, like my mother. If she can read it to the last page without tossing it away in shock then you did good. If she laughs, well you just managed to fiendishly manipulate the most tender heart in the world."

Violent, imaginative and super-stylish, the critically revered Big Bad Wolves has firmly put the duo on the map as forces of dark fiction filmmaking and is paving the way for their next projects including a segment in the upcoming ABC's Of Death 2 as well as a surreal, typically violent, atypically Israeli, spaghetti western, currently in pre-production.

"Never in our wildest dreams have we thought we'd get such a strong international response (from our work),"says Keshales.

"After Rabies we decided to make a film that took the revenge theme to the absurd. We have a moral stand in Big Bad Wolves but still we didn't how people would react to this new approach and the things we have to say about the 'macho men' in our country."

Big Bad Wolves opens Friday.

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Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Police scramble to crack case of egg-regious vandalism

Detectives searched Justin Bieber's home looking for surveillance footage that might serve as evidence the pop star was involved in an egg-tossing vandalism case that caused thousands of dollars in damage to a neighbour's home, an official said Tuesday.

Roughly a dozen investigators searched Bieber's home and arrested one member of the singer's entourage on suspicion of cocaine possession, Lt. David Thompson said.

The man was later identified as Lil Za, a rapper whose real name is Xavier Smith. Jail records show Smith, 20, was being held in lieu of $20,000 US bail. Thompson said the cocaine linked to Smith was in plain sight when detectives searched Bieber's house.

Bieber, 19, was at the home and co-operated with authorities but was not interviewed by detectives. Thompson said he expected the singer to speak with detectives when his attorney could be present.

"He has not been arrested," nor has he been exonerated," Thompson said of Bieber.

Thompson declined to describe what evidence detectives took from Bieber's home, but said the emphasis wasn't on what was in the pop star's refrigerator. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Investigation underway after Kimye chiropractor confrontation

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

The Beverly Hills Police Department has some questions for Kanye West.

The rapper allegedly walked into a chiropractor's office on Monday and punched a young man who had been haranguing him and his fiancée, Kim Kardashian, with a torrent of racial slurs. Police have confirmed they are conducting an investigation into the incident.

"On Monday, January 13th at approximately 12:15 PM, the Beverly Hills Police Department responded to the 8800 block of Wilshire Blvd. regarding a Misdemeanor Battery that just occurred at the location. The named suspect was identified as Kanye West by the victim and several witnesses," the Beverly Hills Police said in a statement. "Mr. West had left the location prior to Officers' arrival. As of this writing, BHPD Detectives are conducting a follow-up investigation. No further information at this time."

Jennifer Lawrence and David O. Russell

Director deems Lawrence a 'slave' to the silver screen

David O. Russell is not one to mince words. And now the director might cause some trouble with his recent comparison of the Hunger Games franchise to, um, slavery — but at least he's aware of it.

"Talk about 12 years of slavery, that's what the franchise is. And I'm going to get in so much trouble for saying that," Russell tells the New York Daily News, after he suggested that the franchise's producers should go a little easier on star Jennifer Lawrence, who just won a Golden Globe for his film American Hustle.

"I personally think they should give her a bit of breathing room over there because they're printing money. But she's a very alive person."

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Casa de Campo's Teeth of the Dog course was designed by Pete Dye, who is renowned for his radical designs. COURTESY CASA DE CAMPO

Bikinis, beaches and birdies

Casa de Campo. Dominican Republic resort boasts best golf course in the Caribbean

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

In golf, as in fashion, it's impossible to overestimate the marketing clout of a bikini-clad supermodel.

Already a favourite among the game's cognoscenti, Casa de Campo instantly became a must-play destination for red-blooded golfers everywhere when the posh Dominican Republic resort provided the tropical backdrop for Elle Macpherson and other beauties in the 1987 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue.

"Sports Illustrated was the breakthrough we'd been waiting for," says Montreal-born Gilles Gagnon, Casa de Campo's director of golf since 1980. "It showcased a unique course and an exotic Caribbean setting that golfers wanted to tick off their bucket list along with St. Andrews and Pebble Beach."

Today, Casa de Campo ranks among the world's elite resorts, attracting, among others, billionaires, former U.S. presidents and movie stars who come to golf, play polo, skeet shoot, frolic in the surf and otherwise enjoy a sprawling 7,000-acre retreat so big and ripe with possibilities that hotel guests are given golf carts to get around the grounds.

But even more than Sports Illustrated, Casa de Campo's success has rested from its opening in 1971 on the brilliance of Teeth of the Dog, the marquee attraction of the property's three Pete Dye-designed courses. Dye, now 88, is renowned for his often radical designs at TPC Sawgrass and other celebrated courses. He was hired by then owners Gulf + Western to literally chisel a course from the oceanfront site's razor-sharp coral rock, called "dientes del perro" (teeth of the dog in Spanish) by his frustrated Dominican crew.

Planted sprig by sprig using machete-sharpened sticks, Dye's generous fairways wind through now mature stands of coconut palms, gumbo-limbo trees and bougainvillea. The real fun begins closer to the greens, where sand and water and severe drop-offs demand surgically precise approach shots. Most unforgettable of all are the seven oceanside holes, including the eponymous 16th, a long and treacherous par three set in a rock cove roughly shaped like a dog's snapping jaws.

A hands-on perfectionist, Dye, who used to own a home on the property, has spent half a lifetime tweaking and even massively reworking Teeth of the Dog and the resort's two other courses.

Reopened in early 2012 after a major reconstruction, The Links is a 6,900-yard inland layout played around man-made lakes and through tall roughs of bahia and guinea grass. And, perched on windswept bluffs overlooking the Chavon River, Dye Fore, a rolling and starkly bare behemoth that launched to rave reviews in 2003, has been expanded from 18 to 27 holes. Dye Fore's new nine, Lakes, snakes dramatically around 25 acres of ponds.

For the non-golfers

- **Resort amenities.** The hotel recently completed a $40 million refurbishment and guests can enjoy the pool, spa and private villas.
- **Polo anyone?** There are weekly polo matches as well as skeet and trap shooting at the 300-station shooting centre.

Contest

Become a pro connoisseur for the summer

Do you have what it takes to be a professional connoisseur? Then Tourism Tobago is looking for you to be their Island Connoisseur.

One winner will spend July and August on the island, sharing their experiences over social media. Oh yeah — there's a $30,000 salary for the two-month gig, too.

So who's the ideal connoisseur? An outgoing personality helps. So does being a social media whiz. You must also love learning about new cultures. To enter the contest, submit your short bio and 30-second video to 60daysinparadise.com.

A panel of travel industry experts will pick the top 10 applicants and then Canadians will vote to decide who will become the Island Connoisseur.

METRO

Wanna spend your summer here? FLICKR: ABEEEER

Survive those winter airport blues

Over the last month, we've seen thousands of frustrated travellers delayed or stranded in airports across the country. With weeks of winter weather still ahead of us, here's a quick course in Winter Travel 101.

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Flight cancelled?

If your flight is cancelled, you will be automatically re-accommodated on the next available flight. How soon depends on the frequency of service to your destination. The challenge during peak travel periods is that flights are often full. It could take days. If you initially have trouble re-booking your cancelled flight, it is worth checking back frequently as larger airlines like Air Canada may try to add more flights when extra crew and capacity become available. If your flight is cancelled, you are entitled to a refund for the unused portion of your ticket.

Flight delayed?

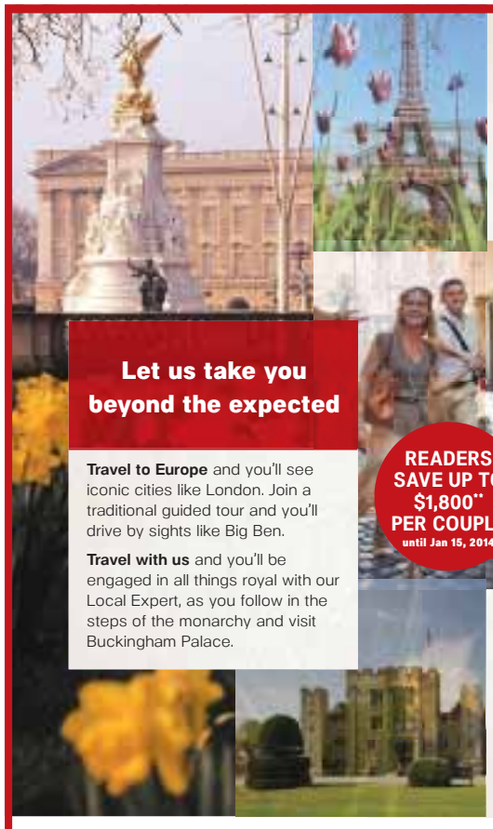
In the case of weather-related delays, there are no set rules that airlines in Canada have to follow. Each airline does, however, spell out its passengers' rights in its condition of carriage, a lengthy document that outlines exactly what compensation you can expect from your air carrier in case things go wrong. WestJet will provide you, depending on the length of the delay, with meal and taxi vouchers as well as an overnight stay in a hotel if you are not in your home city. The compensation varies from airline to airline.

It's all in the plan

Book the first flight out in the morning to ensure you are aren't waiting for your aircraft to arrive. Avoid layovers, and if you're heading south and need to make a connection, skip cities like Chicago and Boston and transfer through Miami and Houston, which are less affected by winter storms. If you can, only bring a carry on as it saves time on both ends. Consider buying interruption insurance, which will cover a portion of your unexpected expenses even if the causes are weather-related.

Control your destiny

Check the status of your flight before leaving for the airport, even if the sky is blue. Bad weather in another city can have a domino effect. Bring along phone numbers for the airline and your travel agent in case you need them. If there are big storms and cancellations, the sooner you can get re-booked the better. Don't rely on one person at the airline to help — think outside the box. If you're scheduled to fly from Fort Lauderdale, maybe you can get on a flight out of Miami. Don't forget to look into rental cars, buses or trains in extreme situations.



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Dinner. Vegetable and Rice Frittata

FLASH FOOD

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DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This quick dinner is a wonderful way to clean out the fridge by using up leftover rice and last night's cooked vegetables.

1. In an 8 inch (20 cm) heatproof nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Cook shallot and garlic for 2 minutes or until softened. Stir in broccoli, red pepper and curry powder to coat. Add broth, cover and cook for 5 minutes or until broccoli is tender. Stir in rice to coat.

2. Meanwhile, in bowl, whisk together eggs, egg whites, salt and ground pepper. Pour over vegetable mixture, lifting and stirring eggs into the mixture with a spatula. Cover and cook for about 8 minutes or until edges are set and puffed. Broil about 6 inches (15 cm) away from broiler for 2 to 4 minutes or until knife inserted in centre comes out clean and top is golden brown.

This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups (500 ml) chopped fresh or frozen broccoli
- Half red bell pepper, diced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) curry powder or paste
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) vegetable broth
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked brown rice
- 4 eggs
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and fresh ground black pepper

Don't wage war at the watercooler, solve conflict with care and class

Ban boardroom brawls. Fight the urge to approach workplace battles with animosity and aggression

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

Don't just talk, be a good listener too. You need to give the other person a chance to tell their side of the story. ISTOCK

Have you ever gotten in a conflict at school with one of your project team members — or with a colleague at work?

Perhaps someone isn't showing up to meetings or contributing to a group task. Perhaps a personal issue has arisen with one of your coworkers.

These conflicts can leave you agitated and frustrated, whether they are personal, school-related or work-related.

Here are six handy conflict resolution tips that you may find useful in helping you to work through and settle these conflicts.

Talk directly

Rather than complaining to others and spreading rumours, it is best to talk directly with the person or persons involved in the issue. Taking a direct approach is definitely a lot more useful and will be faster than if you try to get someone else to do the talking for you.

If you aren't sure about this approach, speaking to a superior or instructor is a great idea — they may have insight or advice.

Choose a good time and place

Make sure to consider the setting of any discussion or attempt to resolve conflict. You don't want to be discussing your personal issues in front of everyone else, or somewhere where you are likely to be interrupted or distracted. Try to find a place where you can focus on the issue at hand. Choosing a good time will allow you to engage in a thorough dialogue to resolve the issue.

Choose your words carefully

This one is pretty self-explanatory. When tensions are high, the wrong choice of words can turn a productive discussion into a new stage of the problem. If you're bringing negative energy to the discussion, the other person will feel antagonized and will likely get defensive.

Follow up on the solution

- When you have figured out a mutually agreeable solution, make sure to periodically check in with each person to ensure the solution is still working well for both of you.
- Of course, not all conflicts can be resolved under your own authority, no matter how hard you try. Be ready to resort to taking the issue to an instructor or supervisor to ensure that a proper process is followed.

Plan ahead

Identifying the issue at hand and the necessary areas of discussion will make your resolution efforts more effective.

Try and get a clear understanding of the issue at hand, who the involved parties are and what a solution that meets the needs of every party will look like. Concentrate on addressing the issue at hand and focus on your own behaviour and areas of responsibility.

Give information

This is arguably the most important step. Try not to make assumptions. Making a statement like: "You are doing this to make my job harder!" won't get you anywhere. Instead, try offering information: "When you do this, it affects me because...."

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Hungry for a new career?

Food for thought. A dietitian is a healthcare career option worth digesting

ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

As a dietitian you could end up writing food columns for different media outlets, developing recipes or even writing cookbooks. ISTOCK

In Canada, opportunities for aspiring dietitians are more abundant than one might think. Check out this introduction to a dietitian's role and learn some of the perks of the job.

But don't get a dietitian confused with a nutritionist!

What exactly does a nutritionist do?

A nutritionist may have studied nutrition at a graduate level at an accredited institution.

In school, nutritionists study food and the body. Nutritionists identify and help eliminate any health issues that may be stemming from certain foods.

They can help with food sensitivities or allergies and can also determine where any deficiencies in food intake may lie.

Drawing on their expert knowledge, nutritionists can make sure that you don't miss out on any important food groups or nutrients.

How is that different from a dietitian?

Generally, dietitians are linked into the medical field and a visit to them will often be recommended by a doctor. Dietitians will have obtained a degree from an accredited institution and must be licensed in order to practice.

A dietitian might help plan food or nutrition programs to promote healthy eating or prevent or treat illness.

To call themselves a dietitian, they must pass a nationally accredited exam that will register them as a dietitian. In Canada, the Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination is required by every province except Quebec.

Where could I end up working?

Job locations for dietitians aren't limited to a hospital setting. As a dietitian, you could be working at extended care facilities, public health centres, pharmaceutical firms or educational and government institutions. You could also work in the food and drink industry or be a consultant. The possibilities are endless.

What kinds of work can I do?

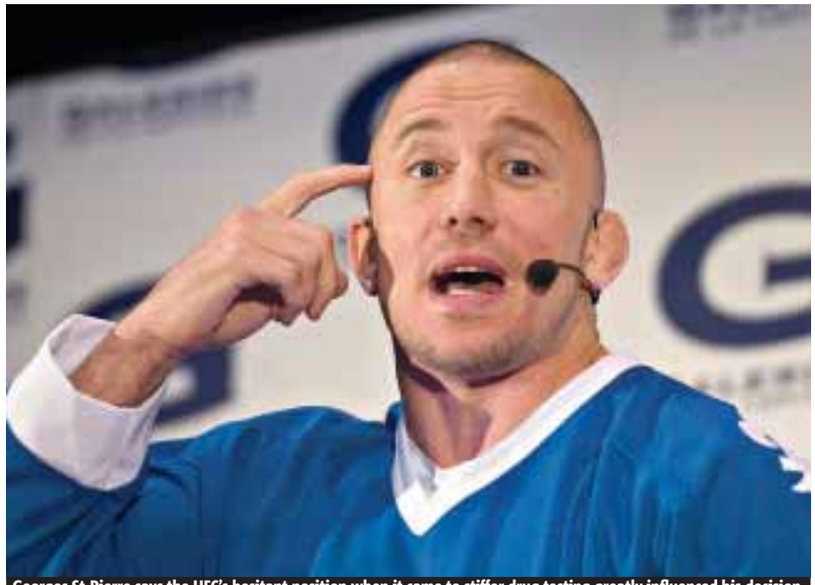
Being a dietitian doesn't just include helping patients with gaining or losing weight or managing allergies. It can involve meal planning for busy families, athletes or those on a budget.

The chances of you being employed as a dietitian in North America are generally pretty good thanks to aging populations, which means that the need for dietitians is rising. There's also a growing consciousness about healthy eating, meaning people might be coming to you for advice more often.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

GSP: Drug testing influenced hiatus

MMA. Ex-welterweight champion says UFC didn't support his bid to get tougher on doping



Georges St-Pierre says the UFC's hesitant position when it came to stiffer drug testing greatly influenced his decision to take a hiatus from fighting. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mixed martial arts star Georges St-Pierre says the Ultimate Fighting Championship's hesitant position when it came to stiffer drug testing greatly influenced his decision to take a break from the Octagon.

St-Pierre said Tuesday a lack of strenuous drug testing was one of the factors that led to his decision to step away from the sport.

"It bothered me greatly, it was one of the reasons I decided to step aside," St-Pierre said Tuesday.

He vacated his welterweight title and took a hiatus from the sport in December, citing a need to lead a normal life and deal with mental fatigue.

The 32-year-old confirmed when asked by a reporter that his employer, the UFC, did not support him when he proposed drug testing in the weeks preceding his Nov. 16 fight against Johnny Hendricks.

St-Pierre stepped away following UFC 167, where he won a controversial split decision over Hendricks. After that fight, he said he needed time away to sort out some personal issues.

The star fighter was prudent in his comments Tuesday, being careful not to point fingers at any one person or fighter. He stressed he wasn't accusing anyone of steroid abuse.

St-Pierre said he wanted to bring the sport he loves to "another level" of testing and help those who are honest in the sport.

"I tried to change things, and unfortunately, maybe for money reasons, maybe for image, they were not ready to do that," St-Pierre said. "I tried to (bring about) change in a very diplomatic way and it didn't work so it's unfortunate, but I believe it will happen sooner or later."

St-Pierre said implementing drug testing is not a condition for any potential return to the sport. He added he could understand the reticence from the organization — a failed drug test could dramatically change a card and result in people losing money. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I feel very good; I feel very happy."

Georges St-Pierre, on appreciating the recent holiday season with his family and being able to have a few drinks.

Leaving the door open

Georges St-Pierre said he hasn't made a decision to retire and added he's in top physical condition and still trains regularly.

- While he has remained vague about a comeback, St-Pierre says the break has made him a better fighter because he's not feeling any external pressure. He repeated he hasn't set any timetable to make a decision regarding his UFC future.

MLB

Cy Young winners arbitration bound

Cy Young Award winners Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Max Scherzer of the Detroit Tigers headed 146 players who filed for salary arbitration Tuesday.

Players are set to swap proposed salaries with their clubs Friday, and hearings will be scheduled for next month in St. Petersburg, Fla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australian Open

Li beats Bencic, heat in Round 2

Coming from one of China's three "Stove Cities" had its benefits for Li Na on another scorching day at the Australian Open.

The 2011 French Open champ from Wuhan raced through the first set against 16-year-old Belinda Bencic in 22 minutes on Wednesday, conceding just 10 points. She had to work harder in the second, with temperatures topping 39 C before winning 6-0, 7-6 (5). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Jagr has historic night vs. Habs

Jaromir Jagr moved into seventh place all-time in NHL goals as the New Jersey Devils downed the Montreal Canadiens 4-1 on Tuesday night.

The 41-year-old got his 695th goal in his 1,438th career game, moving him past Mark Messier. On Saturday, he passed former teammate Mario Lemieux for seventh place in points with 1,724. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jones full of confidence going into Sochi tune-up

Jennifer Jones, who won the Roar of the Rings Canadian Olympic Curling Trials last month, will participate in the Continental Cup beginning Thursday in Las Vegas. TREVOR HAGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Canada's Olympic curlers will compete in the Continental Cup, which starts Thursday in Las Vegas.

Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones, the Canadian women's skip, is looking forward to the event.

"It will be great to go back and start competing," she said Tuesday. "A lot of the teams there will be going to the Olympics so it's a great event, the Continental Cup.

"It's kind of a loose event so we can go and get some games under our belt."

Not that Jones's rink hasn't been training hard. The squad just returned from Edmonton where it was preparing for the Olympics.

"We're prepared," she said. "We had a really good plan going into the trials and I feel we have an even better plan heading into the Olympics.

"We're feeling great about everything."

Canada's men's team, headed by Brad Jacobs, will also be there, along with Winnipeg's Jeff Stoughton and Ottawa's Rachel Homan.

They'll be playing for North America with U.S. Olympic hopefuls Erika Brown and John Shuster.

Five of the six teams competing for Team World in Las Vegas will also be at the Olympics

Five of the six teams competing for Team World in Las Vegas will also be at the Olympics: Scotland's David Murdoch and Eve Muirhead, Niklas Edin and Margaretha Sigfridsson of Sweden and Norway's Thomas Ulsrud.

The format is modelled after golf's Ryder Cup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Harbaugh fighting for 2nd title shot

Head coach Jim Harbaugh of the San Francisco 49ers looks on in the second quarter against the Carolina Panthers during their NFC divisional playoff game on Sunday in Charlotte, N.C. The team is now one win away from a trip to the Super Bowl. GRANT HALVERSON/GETTY IMAGES

NFC championship.

Niners coach charged up ahead of matchup with familiar foe Pete Carroll

Jim Harbaugh pirouetted in frustration following a personal foul on Dan Skuta. He got hit with his own unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for arguing following a catch by Vernon Davis that went to review before being ruled a touchdown.

And that was just last Sunday.

Harbaugh has been at his emotional best — or, to some, worst — with his cartoon-like faces and quirky sideline antics in leading San Francisco back to the NFC championship game for the third time in as many years since taking over as 49ers head coach in January 2011. On Davis's TD during Sunday's 23-10 win at Carolina, Harbaugh ran well onto the field during the play.

"I think Harbaugh gets away with murder myself," former Seattle Seahawks coach and ex-49ers assistant Mike Holmgren said. "If I ever did that it would be a penalty."

Harbaugh should be as charged up as ever come Sunday, when he faces off once more against the rival Seahawks in an NFC championship game featuring that familiar coaching sideshow with Pete Carroll. This time, there's a Super Bowl berth on the line.

But if you ask Harbaugh, "What's your deal?" is old news. Enough already, he insists, keep it about the players.

The controversy dates back to their college days coaching in the Pac-10 Conference. In 2009, Harbaugh and No. 25 Stanford ran up the score on 11th-ranked USC in a surprising 55-21 rout, even attempting a 2-point conversion with the game way out of reach — prompting Carroll's infamous "What's your deal?" when they met afterward at midfield.

"That might have been something four or five years ago," Harbaugh said. "But I haven't seen it as of late. And it would be as irrelevant now as it would have been then when people made a bigger deal out of it ..." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coaching wins rings

The 49ers have already accomplished plenty this post-season by winning in the bitter cold of Green Bay and at Carolina.

- Harbaugh is the first coach in the Super Bowl era to reach the NFC championship in each of his first three years.
- The 50-year-old, a 15-year NFL quarterback himself, regularly moves around the team plane to speak with players about football and life.

Facing the league's best

"It's hard to get to this position.... And they did it better than anybody did it this entire season. So, a great task, great challenge ahead of us."

49ers coach Jim Harbaugh, on the Seahawks.

NFL

Lions hire coach Caldwell to get team into playoffs

The Detroit Lions wanted to replace Jim Schwartz with someone with experience as a head coach.

They landed one, but he appears to be plan B.

The team said Tuesday that Jim Caldwell has been hired as the new coach and will be introduced at a news conference Wednesday. San Diego Chargers assistant and former Arizona Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt was seemingly Detroit's top choice, but he chose to take the head coaching job at Tennessee on Monday night.

The Lions are giving Caldwell another chance to be an NFL head coach. He helped the Indianapolis Colts reach the Super Bowl after his debut season in 2009, but was fired two years later after a 2-14 season while Peyton Manning was injured, dropping his three-year mark to 26-22.

"We believe Jim is the right man to lead our team and deliver a championship to our fans," Lions owner William Clay Ford said in a statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL concussion lawsuit.

Judge says league may have to put up more cash

A federal judge is slowing down the proposed $765 million US settlement of NFL concussion claims, questioning if there's enough money to cover 20,000 retired players.

U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody denied preliminary approval of the plan on Tuesday because she's worried the money could run out sooner than expected. She also raised concerns that anyone who gets concussion damages from the NFL would be barred from suing the NCAA or other amateur football leagues.

"I am primarily concerned that not all retired NFL football players who ultimately receive a qualifying diagnosis or their (families) ... will be paid," the judge wrote.

The proposed settlement, negotiated over several months, is designed to last at least 65 years.

The awards would vary based on an ex-player's age and diagnosis. A younger retiree with Lou Gehrig's disease would get $5 million, those with serious dementia cases would get $3 million and an 80-year-old with early dementia would get $25,000. Retirees without symptoms would get baseline screening and follow-up care if needed.

"Even if only 10 per cent of retired NFL football players eventually receive a qualifying diagnosis," the judge wrote, "it is difficult to see how the Monetary Award Fund would have the funds available over its lifespan to pay all claimants at these significant award levels."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Proposed settlement

More than 4,500 former players have filed suit, some accusing the league of fraud for its handling of concussions. They include former Dallas Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett and Super Bowl-winning Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, who suffers from dementia.

- The settlement would include $675 million for compensatory claims for players with neurological symptoms, $75 million for baseline testing for asymptomatic men and $10 million for medical research and education.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	46	29	15	2	132	102	60
Tampa Bay	47	28	15	4	136	113	60
Montreal	47	26	16	5	118	111	57
Toronto	48	23	20	5	132	146	51
Detroit	46	20	16	10	118	127	50
Ottawa	46	20	18	8	131	146	48
Florida	46	18	21	7	109	141	43
Buffalo	45	13	27	5	80	125	31

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	47	33	12	2	152	112	68
Washington	46	22	16	8	137	137	52
Philadelphia	47	24	19	4	125	132	52
NY Rangers	48	24	21	3	119	126	51
New Jersey	48	20	18	10	112	118	50
Columbus	46	22	20	4	129	131	48
Carolina	46	19	18	9	111	130	47
NY Islanders	48	18	23	7	132	156	43

Tuesday's results
Toronto 4 Boston 3
New Jersey 4 Montreal 1
Tampa Bay 2 NY Rangers 1
San Jose 2 Washington 1 (SO)
Florida 4 NY Islanders 2
Philadelphia 4 Buffalo 3
Ottawa at Minnesota
Calgary at Nashville
Phoenix at St. Louis
Colorado at Chicago
Edmonton at Dallas
Monday's results
Los Angeles 1 Vancouver 0
Calgary 2 Carolina 0
Winnipeg 5 Phoenix 1
Columbus 3 Tampa Bay 2
Wednesday's games — All times Eastern
Buffalo at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's games
Nashville at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Detroit at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	48	30	8	10	175	132	70
St. Louis	44	31	8	5	161	99	67
Colorado	45	28	12	5	132	115	61
Minnesota	48	25	18	5	118	119	55
Dallas	45	20	18	7	127	139	47
Nashville	47	19	21	7	109	141	45
Winnipeg	48	20	23	5	133	146	45

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	48	35	8	5	161	119	75
San Jose	47	29	12	6	150	117	64
Los Angeles	47	28	14	5	120	96	61
Vancouver	47	24	14	9	123	115	57
Phoenix	45	21	15	9	134	141	51
Calgary	46	16	24	6	103	144	38
Edmonton	48	15	28	5	126	169	35

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	25	42	67
Kane, Chi	23	33	56
Tavares, NYI	21	35	56
Getzlaf, Ana	23	30	53
Thornton, SJ	5	45	50
Perry, Ana	25	24	49
Sharp, Chi	25	24	49
Kunitz, Pgh	24	25	49
Backstrom, Wash	11	37	48
Toews, Chi	17	30	47
Ovechkin, Wash	32	14	46
Malkin, Pgh	12	34	46
Okposo, NYI	19	26	45

Tuesday's games not included

NFL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday's games
All times Eastern
New England at Denver, 3 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 6:30 p.m.

SUPER BOWL

Sunday, Feb. 2
At East Rutherford, N.J.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	30	7	.811	—
d-Miami	27	10	.730	3
d-Toronto	19	17	.528	10½
Atlanta	20	18	.526	10½
Washington	17	19	.472	12½
Chicago	17	19	.472	12½
Detroit	16	22	.421	14½
Charlotte	16	23	.410	15
Brooklyn	15	22	.405	15
New York	15	23	.395	15½
Cleveland	13	24	.351	17
Boston	13	26	.333	18
Philadelphia	12	25	.324	18
Orlando	10	28	.263	20½
Milwaukee	7	30	.189	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	30	8	.789	—
d-Portland	28	9	.757	1½
Oklahoma City	28	9	.757	1½
d-L.A. Clippers	26	13	.667	4½
Houston	25	14	.641	5½
Golden State	25	14	.641	5½
Dallas	23	16	.590	7½
Phoenix	21	16	.568	8½
Denver	19	18	.514	10½
Minnesota	18	19	.486	11½
Memphis	17	19	.472	12
New Orleans	15	22	.405	14½
L.A. Lakers	14	23	.378	15½
Sacramento	13	23	.361	16
Utah	13	26	.333	17½

d — division leader.
Tuesday's results
Indiana 116 Sacramento 92
Charlotte 108 New York 98
Oklahoma City at Memphis
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Toronto 116 Milwaukee 94
Houston 104 Boston 92
New York 98 Phoenix 96 (OT)
Washington 102 Chicago 88
San Antonio 101 New Orleans 95
Dallas 107 Orlando 88
Utah 118 Denver 103
Wednesday's games — All times Eastern
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Utah at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Houston at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at Portland, 10 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

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DRIVE

Canada's very own Micra

Review. It's been 21 years since it was last sold here but now Nissan has decided to bring it back and 'Canadianize' it

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

Currently sold in 160 countries, the Nissan Micra subcompact hatchback is a very successful global car.

But it's always been a no-show in the U.S., and it's been 21 years since it was last sold in Canada for an unremarkable seven-year run.

Nissan Canada just announced it will try the Micra experiment again, this time with feeling, and with a very "Canadianized" version, which will be exclusive to Canada. Nissan's U.S. arm is still not Micra motivated, and won't be selling any Micra versions any time soon.

Historically, the Canadian marketplace has always been populated with Canada-only models not sold in the U.S., but they're getting scarcer on the ground, and with what Nissan Canada had to go through, to make this new Micra happen, you can see why…

"It was in development for three years solid," says Andrew Wilton, Nissan Canada's chief marketing manager, and one of the Nissan execs on hand for the model's first unveiling, at a special event in Montreal last week. "You wouldn't believe the amount of engineering that went into it."

The Canadian 2015 Micra will be built at Nissan's Mexican plant, which has been building Mexican-market Micras for years, but Wilton said the Canadian version is closer to the European version. "We looked at the Mexican car, but it just wasn't right for us. We wanted more of the European touches."

PHOTOS: NISSAN

Nissan Micra's re-introduction to Canada reflects this country's love of small hatchbacks .

In fact, the launch of the Canadian car was timed to coincide with the European model's mid-cycle revision, just completed in 2013.

Some of the "Canada-only" items on this Micra include ducts for rear-seat heating, 60/40 split folding rear seat, heated side mirrors, and front and rear sway bars for the suspension. Wilton and Nissan Canada are really proud of that suspension.

They took the best Micra suspension component set up they could find globally, in that European market Micra, and made it even better, by adding those sway bars: "No other market has a front or rear sway bar," boasted Wilton.

The car also gets the European 15 and 16 inch wheels, because Nissan Canada liked the looks of them, and Canadians use winter tires, and those are harder to come by on the smaller 13 and 14 inch wheels featured on the Micra models in other markets.

"That's the beauty of a global car. You can pick and choose from every single market. We selfishly like to think we did a really good job at the picking and choosing," added Wilton.

The Micra is smaller than the Nissan Versa Note, but shares the same V-platform, which underpins a lot of small Nissans (V stands for versatile). Micra's engine will also be the same 1.6-litre "four" toiling away in Versa Note, but Micra will go with a five-speed manual or conventional four-speed automatic; Versa's automatic is a CVT.

Keeping the "higher-technology" pieces on the Versa Note is Nissan's strategy to give the two small hatchbacks some separation on the sales floor and on the price ladder. So don't expect stuff up-market options like heated seats, navigation, and 360-degree monitor on the Micra.

Versa Note's base price is $13,348. Micra's will be lower than that, but Nissan is not saying by how much exactly, at least not yet.

2015 Nissan Micra

- **Type.** Subcompact four-door hatchback
- **Engine.** 1.6-lite four-cylinder engine
- **Transmissions.** 4-speed automatic or 5-speed manual
- **Base price (incl. destination).** Nissan said it will be lower than their $13.3K Versa Note

Exclusive Canadian club

The Canadian marketplace has always featured vehicles not sold in the U.S., but we're seeing less and less of them. Here are a few past and Canadian-market models that were, or are, persona non grata in the U.S., 1959 Dodge Viscount; 2000 Toyota Echo Hatchback; 2005 Acura EL 1.7, 2009 Mercedes-Benz B-Class.

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less.

Toyota's FT-1 concept has universal appeal

2014 Detroit Auto Show. Japanese automaker decided to indulge itself and show a stunning vision of where the company is headed for the future

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The Toyota FT-1 concept debuting in Detroit this week portends what a front-engine, rear-drive Toyota flagship sports car might look like, if Toyota was so inclined to build one.

It was totally designed at Toyota's Calty design studio in California, and the chief designer there, Alex Shen, tells us that the main design theme was to leverage and celebrate the "functional aspects of a sports car."

"If you look at the surfacing and construction, you can see everything is based on downforce and cooling needs," says Shen. As such, the air intakes and outtakes are where a lot of the FT-1's visual horsepower is made, with very graceful and dramatic sculpting.

"We didn't just want to make very mechanical holes. The sculpting is actually in the holes, in the negative surfacing."

The other curves and bodywork are also all about doing what they can for engine cooling, aerodynamics, and cleaning up "dirty air." When Calty talked to Toyota's "race guys" (the department known as TRD), the race guys said dirty air around the wheel arches is a particular problem on the racetrack. The FT-1 has crazy wheel flares and tight body-to-wheel tolerances, but it's not for show — it's all for go.

At higher speeds a retractable rear wing also deploys and tilts forward to improve weight distribution.

Shen said the vehicle is "authentically aerodynamic."

The "just for function" ethos continues to the tiny cabin, which is just big enough to cover the driver and passenger, and the soft seat materials exist only where they meet human body parts.

"Nothing is excessive," says Shen.

I guess I get what he means, but everything works toward an excessively dramatic sports car concept. It's a showstopper for sure, and a bit of a reversal for Toyota, which has historically only greenlighted vehicle designs if they satisfied a lot of consensus-based tests, such as consumer and market studies, and internal juries.

"The goal was to produce a vehicle liked by everyone," said Kevin Hunter, who heads up Calty, and who had the honours of introducing the concept in Detroit. "As a result we took less risk, and tried not to stray too far from designs that had been a success."

Hunter said Toyota is moving away from such consensus decision processes, so more emotionally engaging products, like the FT-1, can be created: "This is a symbol of Toyota's design future, a spiritual pace car for a changing Toyota."

No production plans or any technical specifications for the FT-1 were revealed, though Shen said many elements of the design should show up on future Toyota products.

Toyota have succeeded in making a car that everyone likes in FT-1 BOTH PROVIDED

The interior is a good example of the designers' 'just for function' ethos

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Automotive eye candy is coming...

Autoknow. In a world that seems incapable of keeping secrets, the Detroit Auto Show still has a surprise or two up its sleeve

model steal the thunder for 2014.

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

The 2014 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, Mich., won't likely have the punch of the 2013 event.

Why? The Corvette was a huge draw a year ago. And with the international debut of the 2015 Ford Mustang already having taken place in December, this year's NAIAS will launch Jan. 18 to the general public without the draw of a clear headline act. But what the NAIAS will lack in the revelations of iconic vehicles, it will likely make up for with a wide variety of debuts from many of the premier manufacturers around the world. More than 20 top autobuilders have confirmed vehicle launches during the show, including Acura, Bentley, BMW, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Ford, Honda, Infiniti, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Porsche, Toyota and Volkswagen.

"The manufacturers continue to show their confidence in the NAIAS, and will once again bring their absolute best to Detroit's world stage," said Bob Shuman, chairman of this year's show. "That means introductions of an expected 50 worldwide concept and production vehicles that will be seen for the very first time right here in Detroit." Almost 30,000 industry professionals, 5,000 journalists and 750,000 visitors will converge on the Cobo Center in Detroit for the Super Bowl of auto shows that ends Jan. 26. As expected, every vehicle type — more than 500 models total —will be displayed on more than 60 exhibitor stages throughout the 2.4 million square-foot Cobo Center. Many manufacturers are keeping their reveal plans hidden, but a few details have leaked on what show visitors can expect. Following are some of the most anticipated vehicle debuts scheduled for Detroit.

2014 BMW 2 Series Coupe

Bavarian Motor Works is creating arguably the most buzz of any manufacturer as it readies to pull the covers off of not one, not two, but three important vehicle launches in Detroit. The most anticipated of the three surrounds the 2 Series, which is a two-door coupe designed and built to replace the aging 1 Series. The new car will be a late-2014-model-year arrival when it goes on sale in March. The 2 Series is about nine centimetres longer that the 1 Series and has more space between the front and rear wheels, meaning more cabin and storage space. Why call it a 2 Series? BMW is rejigging its number sequencing with even digits being assigned to two-door models. Two models will be available at launch: the base 228i; and the sportier M235i. BMW will also unveil its all-new M3 performance sedan and M4 coupe in Detroit.

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The Lexus RC coupe was unveiled in November, but a high-performance RC F will launch in Detroit ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

2015 Mercedes-Benz C Class

Hoping to attract even more popularity to its best-selling model, Mercedes-Benz will introduce an all-new longer and wider C Class coupe that the company touts as "a bold departure from its predecessor," a classic model that has already sold more than 2.4 million units worldwide. By adding more aluminum in construction - almost 50 per cent compared to 10 per cent in the outgoing C Class car — the new vehicle sheds about 100 kilograms from the existing model, a weight reduction that Mercedes-Benz says will help cut fuel consumption by about 20 per cent and greatly improve handling and agility. An air suspension will be available for the first time in the C Class, with three engine options to choose from at launch. The C180 and the C200 models feature 1.6- and 1.9-litre powerplants. The C220 CDI carries a 2.1-litre turbo-diesel. A hybrid model will also be added to the C Class catalog later this year.

2015 Lexus RC F

Based on a couple of teaser photos from Lexus, the RC F is a high-performance version of the RC coupe that was unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show in November. According to Autoblog.com, the new RC F will be the hit of the Lexus lineup in Detroit, with a V8 engine that will produce up to 460 horsepower, and with similar styling and design cues featured on the LF-CC concept car that was unveiled at the 2012 Paris Motor Show.

2015 Honda Fit

Honda promises that its third-generation Fit will feature fresher styling, more space and improved fuel efficiency. An all-new platform and powertrain is also expected to improve performance for a popular subcompact that has sold nearly five million units in 123 different countries since its introduction in 2001.As the new-car buyer continues to crave lower fuel consumption, Honda promises that the new Fit hybrid will not only deliver terrific efficiency but better performance and some of the best safety features in its class. Add to these four anticipated production models the debuts of some intriguing concept vehicles such as the bold-looking John Cooper Works model from Mini and the Formula One racing inspired Q50 from Infiniti, and the hosts of NAIAS vow that the 2014 show will be want for nothing. "It's what we've been working on since last January," Shuman said of the event preparations. "This show is going to rock."

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The full moon's influence will pull your emotions first one way then the other over the next 48 hours. So the safest course of action is to ignore them completely and act only on what your head tells you.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You would like nothing better than to turn your back on the past and start again but you know it isn't practical. Make the most of the situation you find yourself in. It's not that bad.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may lose your temper with someone who lets you down. But don't feel bad about it because you are not the only one whose emotions are up in the air. Even Geminis get annoyed once in a while.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What happens tomorrow, when the moon is full in your sign, may seem extreme. But who says life is fair? Others have the power to make the rules and you don't, so adapt.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will fall out with someone today, most likely because you cannot agree on issues of a philosophical nature. Fortunately, you will also find it easy to make up and be friends again.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
As tomorrow's full moon cuts across one of the outspoken areas of your chart, you won't be tactful when dealing with people whose opinions you do not share. But why should you be when you are right?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Are you in charge of your emotions or are they in charge of you? If you are honest, it will most likely be the latter. Whatever happens, don't let your fears damage your career.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The tensions in one area of your life have almost reached breaking point but that need not be as bad as it sounds. In fact, it could even be good if it clears away all the resentments you've been saving up these past few months.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Tomorrow's full moon makes it likely that you will clash with someone over money. But don't take it seriously because in a matter of days neither of you will be able to remember what it was all about.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let your emotions get the better of you over the next few of days. Others can rush about like it's the end of the world but you will remain cool and with full self-control.

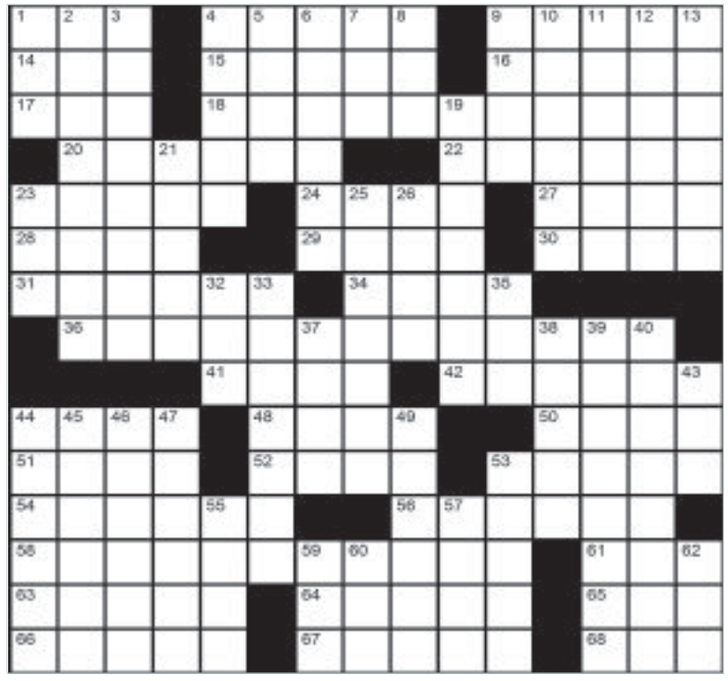
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be in a fighting mood but don't lose sight that while some things are worth fighting for, others are not. Pick your battles carefully and make sure your enemy is worthy.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It will pay you to steer clear of touchy subjects over the next 48 hours. There are things going on that you disapprove of but will getting involved on an emotional level change anything? No. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



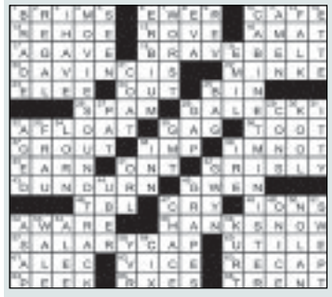
Across

1. Cooling device
4. Soldier date for Barbie: 2 wds.
9. Store areas [abbr.]
14. Author Mr. Levin
15. Wearer of the black tutu in Swan Lake
16. Love, in Venice
17. Montreal area, lettered
18. Origin for medical-grade marijuana: 2 wds.
20. Bean-yielding trees
22. Sheepish response to "Where'd that last piece of cake go?": 3 wds.
23. "Sheesh.": 2 wds.
24. Eden offspring
27. Ms. Sommer
28. Crying sounds
29. Songwriter, Jimmy __
30. Crate strip
31. Hamilton radio station, K-__ _ _
34. Ancient Greece's war god
36. 18-3224 __ __: Purple hue that is Pantone's 'Color of the Year' for 2014
41. And others, for short
42. Bug's midsection
44. Dress lines
48. Nautical ropes
50. Alone
51. Nursemaid
52. Mixture
53. __ Park (Thomas Edison's home/lab site in New Jersey)
54. Change a moniker
56. Ukraine port city
58. Type of police bust: 2 wds.
61. Sundial number
63. Like an omelet
64. Was resentful, __ _ grudge
65. __. _ (Julius Erving, to basketball fans)
66. Ms. Witherspoon
67. Bathroom cleanser
68. "Omigod!"

Down

1. In shape
2. Football-on-TV watcher, __ quarterback
3. Community in BC's Okanagan Valley
4. Middle East: __ Heights
5. Thought: Prefix
6. __ puzzle
7. 'Pay' suffix
8. Three-lettered fish
9. Olympic swimming great Ms. Torres
10. Overacts
11. Coastal city of BC, __ River
12. Three-horsed Russian carriage
13. Set of seven
19. Stage show collaborators, __ & Sullivan
21. Surveyed
23. Night flapper
25. 1964: "Ladies and gentlemen... The __!!!"
26. River of Spain
32. Giant's cry of disgust
33. 1497: John Cabot's ship, The __
35. Principal's employer, for short
37. Quebec water brand
38. Sprays
39. TV series that starred Canadian actor Raymond Burr
40. Canadian Senator/humanitarian, Romeo __
43. Tic-Tac-Toe line
44. Current PM
45. Arise
46. Horsemanship academy
47. Sunglasses
49. Sandbanks
53. Athlete's prize
55. Formed
57. "Thank You" songstress
59. Oilers org.
60. King: Spanish
62. Alphabetic trio

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

8		2		7		1	6	
	9	7						
			4					2
2		1	3					
7			6		1			3
					4	5		7
5					2			
						4	7	
	4	6		8		9		1

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	5	9	8	2	3	1	4
8	2	3	4	1	7	9	6	5
4	9	1	3	5	6	2	7	8
6	4	7	5	9	8	1	2	3
5	8	2	6	3	1	4	9	7
1	3	9	7	2	4	5	8	6
3	5	8	1	6	9	7	4	2
9	7	6	2	4	3	8	5	1
2	1	4	8	7	5	6	3	9

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